

Constitution Allows Us Act Against Those Who Threaten National Integrity: LG

- Those who have supported terrorism & enjoyed Govt jobs through illegal means will face music;
- 360 degree approach adopted by Security Forces in Jammu too
- No step will be taken against people's interest in J&K

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Sunday said that no matter who says what, the Indian Constitution allows UT administration to go tough against those who pose threat to national integrity and those who have supported terrorism, its ecosystem and "enjoyed government jobs through illegal means."



side-lines of starting Green Jammu and Kashmir Driver 2023-34 from IIM Jammu, the LG said that it doesn't matter who says what as there is a provision in Indian Constitution kept by the its architects like

B R Ambedkar and others that says, "Go tough, rather hard against those who pose threat to State/nation's integrity and sovereignty."

He said that J&K administration has decided to go hard

against those who have supported terrorism, its ecosystem and enjoyed government jobs through "illegal means." "So it doesn't matter who says what," the LG said.

His statement comes a day after J&K Bank sacked its Chief Manager Sajad Bazaz on the pretext of receiving "credible reports against him from the agencies." "Anyone who has supported terror and its ecosystem will have to face the music," he said.

The LG while replying to a query said that Kashmir was in prime focus for a long time for terrorism. "Security agencies adopted a 360 degree approach in Kashmir to root out terrorism. Now same approach is being followed in the Jammu region. We have achieved some success in Jammu ▶ [More On P6](#)

LG dedicated Awam Ki Awaaz to Unsung Heroes Says Need New Resolve & Determination for All Round Development

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha dedicated the 29th edition of 'Awam Ki Awaaz' programme to the unsung heroes and the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Youth is the age of determination, dreams and dedication. Youth is power of transformation. Today, J&K is witnessing the creative power of young generation, determined to create a better future and dedi-

cated to build a peaceful and prosperous UT," the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor congratulated the people of Jammu Kashmir for their enthusiastic participation in the Independence Day events.

"On the occasion of Independence Day, entire J&K with unity, brotherhood and one emotion dedicated themselves to contribute in the journey of 'Viksit Bharat' and faster and inclusive ▶ [More On P6](#)

Black Bear Mauls 59-Year-Old In Handwara

Third Attack Within 24 Hours Raises Alarm

Handwara: A 59-year-old man was wounded by a black bear in Drangsoo village, Mawer in Handwara of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Sunday.

This incident comes just a day after a young child lost their life and a woman was gravely injured in separate incidents of wild animal attacks

According to officials one Ghulam Mohiuddin Malik, was working in his orchard when the black bear attacked him, causing severe injuries. He was promptly transported to NTPHC Qalamabad for immediate medical care, and later transferred to GMC Handwara ▶ [More On P6](#)

Fewer Yatris, Amarnath Yatra To Be Cut Short by A Week

Chadi Mubarak To Mark The Culmination On 31st August

Observer News Service

JAMMU / SRINAGAR: The 62-day long Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2023 commenced on 1st July this year and it will culminate with the event of Chadi Mubarak on 31st August 2023.

The Yatra commenced simultaneously from both the routes - the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

This year the Yatra has seen overwhelming foot-fall with more than 4.4 lakh pilgrims having taken darshan at the Holy Amarnathji Shrine so far.

Shrine Board authorities



have informed that due to considerable reduction in the flow of pilgrims and the urgent repairs & maintenance of the Yatra tracks at vulnerable stretches being undertaken by ▶ [More On P6](#)

J&K Bank Sacks Chief Manager Sajad Bazaz

Srinagar: The J&K Bank has terminated the services of a Chief Manager-rank officer for "the State's security interests" and decided against holding any formal inquiry.

According to a communique, issued by the bank's MD and CEO Baldev Prakash, Bazaz, better known for his columns in Greater Kashmir newspaper, was relieved of his duties with immediate effect.

The Managing Director said he was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the case in the report received from "credible agencies", that the activities of Bazaz warranted his dismissal from service under Rule/ Provision ▶ [More On P6](#)

Muslim Couple Beaten To Death After Son Elopes With Hindu Girl; 3 Arrested

Agenceis

Sitapur (UP): In a shocking incident, a Muslim couple were beaten to death with iron rods and sticks by their neighbours in Sitapur district.

Three people have been arrested in the case, and police say that the murder was allegedly a result of an affair between the victim's son and the daughter of one of the accused.

The couple, Abbas and his wife Kamrul Nisha, died on the spot in the attack and all the accused fled from the spot.

Sitapur Superintendent of Police Chakresh Mishra said

a few years back Abbas's son had eloped with a girl from the neighbouring household. A case was registered in this regard and Abbas's son was sent to jail.

When Abbas's son was released from jail a few days back, some members of the family planned the attack on the couple, police said.

"According to the villagers, the son of the deceased couple Shaukat and Rampal's daughter Ruby had an affair. Shaukat had abducted Ruby in the year 2020. At that time, Ruby was a minor and after registering a case, the police sent Shaukat to jail. He again abducted ▶ [More On P6](#)

Militancy Is Down, But Suicide Rate Among Students At All-Time High

IANs

Srinagar: Nestled in the intimidating Himalayas, the valley of Kashmir, as much as it is a picture of heavenly environs with its exquisite abundance of nature, muffles the murmurs, cries, and even silence of many. Beyond the deafening sounds of conflict of three decades is the muted voice of those driven to do the forbidden—suicide.

There have been frequent news of youth resorting to suicide in Kashmir. Hanging oneself to death and jumping into a river are the commonly

reported ways of committing suicide. However, a number of factors lead one to this extremity.

Suicidal thoughts and behaviour may be determined by several individual and social factors. The frequency of suicides may arguably reflect a social disorder more than an individual's disordered mental state. As indicated by Emile Durkheim, the father of Sociology, suicide can be a result of social change.

Continued political instability in the Valley and the shadow of militancy have an imprint on the ▶ [More On P6](#)

in FOCUS

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE OF AIRFLOW obstruction was smoking, and smoking prevalence was high, particularly of traditional hookahs, among the older population. Whereas the use of hookahs was widespread among both males and females, cigarette smoking was confined to younger males."

Triple Whammy! In Kashmir, Smoking Is A Culprit For Cancers, COPD & Drug Abuse

Parvaiz Bhat

Srinagar: From January 2010 to November 2022, as many as 5,455 cases of lung cancer were registered at Sher-e-Kashmir-Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) which were mainly caused by smoking, doctors said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also found smoking as the leading cause of lung cancer incidence around the world. Besides being the single most important cause of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease



(COPD) in Kashmir, smoking is also responsible for putting youth on the path of substance abuse, say experts.

Data accessed by Kashmir Observer at SKIMS revealed that the number of lung cancer patients registered at the

institute has never fallen below 350 cases from 2010 to 2022 whereas these figures have gone past 500 once and 400 six times in these years.

According to WHO, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, accounting for the highest mortality rates among both men and women. Smoking, as per WHO, is responsible for approximately 85% of all lung cancer cases.

According to a Lung India study, Lung Cancer in Kashmir Valley, in which a ▶ [More On P6](#)



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JAMMU & KASHMIR



RAJ BHAVAN SRINAGAR-190001

MESSAGE

On the occasion of National Senior Citizens Day, observed every year on 21st August, I extend my heartiest greetings to all the senior citizens. This day holds special significance as we come together to honour the invaluable contributions that senior citizens have made to the society, profoundly influencing our lives in positive ways.

Our senior citizens are the living repositories of our history and culture, holding within them a treasure of experiences and values that have shaped our nation's journey. Their hard work, dedication, and sacrifices have paved the way for the progress and development we enjoy today. Their unwavering determination continues to inspire and guide us in our endeavors. We must remain committed to ensure that they enjoy a healthy and dignified life.

The government has implemented various initiatives to provide them with access to quality healthcare, social & legal support and encourage active aging. We recognize that their wisdom is an invaluable resource, and we are dedicated to creating an inclusive society where they can thrive and contribute meaningfully.

Let us be appreciative of our elders and uphold their rights and dignity. It is our collective duty to accord due respect and care to these esteemed members of our community.

Srinagar

(Manoj Sinha)



Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta (IAS) CHIEF SECRETARY JAMMU & KASHMIR



MESSAGE

On this significant day of 21st August, as we observe National Senior Citizens Day, I extend my best wishes to all the Senior Citizens. This day serves as a meaningful opportunity to admire and celebrate their remarkable achievements and useful contributions to our society.

The wisdom and experience of our senior citizens serves as a source of inspiration for our younger generations. Their support and guidance have played an important role in shaping our destinies. Just as they supported us in times of need, it's our responsibility to reciprocate the care. By doing so, we create an environment where they can lead happy and fulfilling lives while knowing they are valued and cherished members of our society.

The government has initiated numerous schemes aimed at enhancing the quality of life of our senior citizens. Senior Citizen Homes have been established in 13 districts and Helpline for Senior Citizens is also available. Besides, Rules under Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens' Act have been issued and Maintenance & Appellate Tribunals for Senior Citizens constituted in all districts. I urge the senior citizens to be aware of their legal rights and take benefit of welfare programs.

On this day, let's commit to express our gratitude towards senior citizens enriching their lives with care and happiness.

Srinagar

(Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta)



Sheetal Nanda (IAS) Commissioner/Secretary Social Welfare Department, J&K



MESSAGE

On the occasion of National Senior Citizens day on 21st August 2023, I extend my greetings and gratitude to all the senior citizens. The day is celebrated to commemorate their accomplishments and contributions to the society.

Senior citizens are source of inspiration to the youth of our country and have given unparalleled support in shaping the lives of our future generations. They are the treasure of moral values and we must value their sacrifices and learn from their enriched experiences.

The steady increase in population of senior citizens also brings to the fore many challenges being faced by them in their day to day life. The Government is committed to provide quality life to the senior citizens and in its endeavor to do so have introduced various welfare schemes and legal safeguards for them. It is our responsibility to provide them all the support they need for access to Medical, Legal and other social issues being faced by them.

Let us all resolve to give them support and care for leading healthy, happy and dignified life.

(Sheetal Nanda)



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name Schaeffler India Social Innovator Fellowship Program 2023

Description: Schaeffler India is inviting applications from individuals between 18 and 35 years of age to recognize and reward those individuals who are developing unique sustainable solutions that have the potential to positively impact the society at scale in India. Eligibility: Applicants should belong to the age group of 18 to 35 years (as on 1st September 2023). They should be residents of India. Early-stage start-ups or NGOs with functioning prototypes can participate. Prizes & Rewards: Fellowship grants worth INR 10 Lakh along with exclusive mentorship at CIIE.CO, IIM Ahmedabad and networking opportunities.

Last Date to Apply: 10-09-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SIA2

Scholarship Name Legrand Empowering Scholarship Program 2023-24

Description: Legrand invites applications from meritorious girl students who have applied to pursue B.Tech/BE/B.Arch., other courses (BBA/B.Com./B.Sc.- Math and Sciences) across India. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students to pursue a career in Engineering, Architecture, Finance and Sciences. Eligibility: The scholarship is open to girl students across India. Applicants must have gotten admission in B.Tech/BE/B.Arch./BBA/B.Com./B.Sc. (Math and Science) degrees in India. Applicants must have passed out class 12 in the year 2022-2023. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 70% and above marks in Class 10 and 12. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must be less than INR 5,00,000. Preference will be given to special category* students. Prizes & Rewards: Girl students are awarded 60% course fees up to INR 60,000 per year till the completion of course based on academic performance. Students in the special category* will be awarded 80% fees up to INR 1,00,000 per year till the completion of the course based on academic



performance.

*Special category: Differently-abled students/transgender students/students with single parents/students who lost their parents due to COVID.

Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LFLS7

Scholarship Name Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarship for Women Engineering Students

Description: Rolls-Royce India invites applications from girl students studying in the 1st/2nd/3rd year of the engineering degree program at AICTE-recognized institutions. The scholarship aims to support deserving students who demonstrate both academic excellence and financial need.

Eligibility: Girl students who are currently studying in the 1st/2nd/3rd year of the engineering degree program (in fields like Aerospace, Marine, Electronics, Computers, etc.) at AICTE-recognized institutions are eligible. The applicants must have scored more than 60% marks in their Class 10 and 12 board exams. Annual family income must not exceed INR 4 lakh per annum. Please Note: Preference will be given to individuals belonging to special categories such as those with physical disabilities, single parents, and orphans. Female scholars who have previously received the 'Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarship for Women Engineering Students' in 2022 and are currently in their 4th year of engineering degree can also apply. Prizes & Rewards: INR 35,000 Exclusive one-to-one and one-to-many mentorship sessions, webinars/workshops from industry experts at Rolls-Royce India

Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UN55

Published Since 1997 KASHMIR OBSERVER

IS AVAILABLE IN SRIANGAR AT FOLLOWING PLACES

ABDULLAH NEWS AGENCY	AMIRA KADAL	BUDSHAH NEWS AGENCY	AFTAB MARKET
SIKENDER NEWS AGENCY	AMIRAKADAL	RASHEED GAZALA	LAL CHOWK
GUPKARI NEWS AGENCY	LAL CHOWK	RAFIQ NEWS AGENCY	BATMALOO
KHAN NEWS AGENCY	REGAL CHOWK	MEHRAJ NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE
RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAN	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR
KOHINOOR NEWS AGENCY	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA
SHEIKH NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA	AL NOOR NEWS AGENCY	NOWGAM
FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB
AL FALAH NEWS AGENCY	NATIPORA	FIDA NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH
FIRDOUS NEWS AGENCY	PIRBAGH	HARMINDER NEWS AGENCY	GOGJI BAGH
TANTRAY NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH	BASHIR NEW AGENCY	NOWHATTA
ARIF NEWS AGENCY	JAWHAR NAGAR	AGA NEWS AGENCY	ALI KADAL
MUSHTAQ KALASHPURI	KALASHPORA	HABBAKADAL NEWS AGENCY	HABBAKADAL
ALTAZ NEWS AGENCY	FATEHKADAL	FAROOQ NEW AGENCY	GOJWARA
JEELANI NEW AGENCY	KHAWAJA BAZAR	DAR NEWS AGENCY	QAMARWARI
NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
KHALID NEWS AGENCY	HAMDANIYA COLONY	JONSON NEWS AGENCY	SEKIDAFAR
BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEHRA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEHRA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL
AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA

FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327

FREE
 One to one and group mental health counselling services in the clinic as well as in online mode



HEALTHY MINDS

Our team of well qualified and trained professionals comprises both child/adolescent as well as adult psychologists & counsellors that work under the guidance & supervision of senior consultant psychologists.



WE PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HELP IN OVERCOMING THE FOLLOWING AND MANY MORE CONDITIONS

- Anger & Stress management
- Personal Empowerment
- Post Traumatic Stress disorder
- Depression
- Anxiety Disorder
- Suicide Prevention and more

CALL FOR FREE CONSULTATION! 10AM - 4PM, Monday - Saturday

9469 807 321 | 9469 811 096 | 9070 130 280

HOUSE NO. 27, LANE NO 16 A, GOGJI BAGH

LG Launches Theme Song of Green J&K Drive & Har Gaon Haryali

Observer News Service

JAMMU, AUGUST 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive 2023-24 from IIM Jammu, today.

The Lt Governor planted a tree sapling in the Campus to mark the occasion.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the Forests Department, IIM Jammu, Village Panchayat Plantation Committees and all the stakeholders for the launch of the mega plantation drive.

"Green J&K Drive has become a major contributor to increasing the green cover of J&K, strengthening our ecology and building a healthier society. In the last 3 years, we have been able to plant more than 4 crore saplings and the target for this year is to plant 1.75 crore plants to ensure ecological security," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the need to protect, preserve and restore ecology and biodiversity for sustainable living.

J&K has one of the most diverse forest areas in the country with 55% forest and green cover. It is in the interest of environment and our future generations to synergise development with the natural resources for sustainable development, he added.

There is a saying that God forgives always, men forgive sometimes but nature never forgives. It is high time we realize that our rights over nat-

ural resources are temporary. We have to respect and restore the delicate balance between economic development and conservation of forests and environment, he said.

At IIM Jammu, the Lt Governor shared the key initiatives of the UT Administration aimed at ecological conservation and protection of natural resources.

"Sustainable Development and Environment Conservation is our priority. Protection of natural resources is in the DNA of our society, our culture. With the whole of government and whole of society approach, we are making honest efforts to address the challenges of climate change," the Lt Governor said.

17 Nagar Vans are being established near cities and towns. It will enhance the green cover in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas to provide clean and healthy environment to the dwellers of Urban Centres. It is also being ensured that the city forests are established in all urban local bodies, he added.

The Lt Governor said the environmental protection awareness campaigns have generated a sense of responsibility among the people and there is a growing realization that the nature is the only lifeline for human existence.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor called upon the Premier Education Institutions of J&K to take the lead in environmental protection campaigns.



Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh organized by Amar Ujala Group in Srinagar

LG Advises Students, Teaching Community to Focus on Future Skills

'We also need to redefine the role of a teacher. It should focus more on mentoring rather than delivering information as per curriculum and textbooks'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed the Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh organized by Amar Ujala Group in Srinagar.

The Lt Governor felicitated the meritorious students of class 10th and 12th and congratulated them for their achievement.

In his address, the Lt Governor highlighted the need to bring reforms in the teaching-learning process in line with the emerging new technologies.

Acceleration in technology, Artificial Intelligence and availability of digital information has transformed the education and we need

to focus on future skills that will ensure perfect balance between basic knowledge and applied skills.

The Lt Governor called upon the teaching community to play the role of a mentor to the students and underlined the need to redefine the role of a teacher.

A teacher's role should focus more on mentoring rather than delivering information as per curriculum and textbooks. Teaching should be more engaging and it should encourage critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and curiosity in the students, he said.

"Every student is unique and blessed with natural talent. It is the responsibility of

the teachers to discover, nurture and refine their talents. There is an urgent need to focus on creativity and life-long learning skills," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor shared the significant transformation taking place in the education sector under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. He also sought the contribution from the teaching community in effective implementation of National Education Policy.

Citing examples of various great personalities, the Lt Governor advised the students to acquire practical knowledge and learn through experience.

PC will revitalise cultural, historical essence of Srinagar: Lone

Agencies

Srinagar : The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) today convened a massive workers' convention in the Eidgah Constituency which was marked by the enthusiastic participation of thousands of supporters and party members. The convention was graced by presence of PC President Sajad Gani Lone, accompanied by senior Vice President Abdul Gani Vakil, Provincial President Mohammad Khurshid Alam, Chief Organiser Rashid Mehmood President Central Zone Hilal Rather, Provincial Secretary Irfan Mattoo, Political Secretary to PC President Tasaduq Yaseen and Youth President Mudasir Karim.

While addressing the spirited gathering, PC President Sajad Gani Lone reiterated the party's steadfast commitment to revitalizing the cul-

tural and historical essence of Srinagar. He also voiced concerns regarding past dispensations' disregard and indifference for the genuine aspirations of the city's residents and accused them of exploiting the people of Srinagar for personal gain over the course of decades.

Lone further emphasized the PC's vision to uplift and empower the traditionally marginalized residents of Srinagar, advocating for their empowerment and progress. He expressed his strong belief in the leadership of Irfan Mattoo, who according to Lone, holds the best interests of the city's residents close to his heart.

"In Irfan Mattoo, we have a leader who is deeply connected to the pulse of the city and its people. His dedication to their well-being is unshakable, and his leadership serves as a beacon of hope", he added.

G.A Mir Makes it to Highest Policy Decision Making Body

Agencies

Srinagar: Senior Congress Leader and Former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir today makes it to the highest policy decision making body of Indian National Congress (CWC).

In a statement, Ghulam Ahmad Mir expressed heartfelt gratitude to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra for his nomination as member of the Congress party's highest decision-making Body at National Level.

It is truly a great honour for a grassroots level worker from a remote area to be in CWC. I am delighted over the trust and confidence Congress Highly Command has reposed in me, Mir said, and added that making it to CWC is indeed a great honour. I assure my Party High Command that I shall do my utmost to further strengthen the Party.

Majlis Hussaini held at Chadoora

Observer News Service

Budgam: Paying homage to the martyrs of Karbala, president Anjuman-e-Sharie Shayan Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi said that Hazrat Imam Hussain's sacrifice showed that truth was always victorious, adding that people should learn from his example.

Addressing mourners at Majlis-e-Hussaini which was held Mausoleum of Mir Shamasdin Araki, Chadoora Budgam, Aga Hassan said the day of martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s) is an event that was reminiscent of the im-

mense sacrifices rendered by the martyrs of Karbala in order to uphold the spirit of Islam.

"The great epic of Ashura has a lot of messages and lessons that affect various dimensions of our political, social, and individual life. It played a major role in terms of making sacrifices and promoting altruism," Aga Hassan Said.

On the occasion Aga Syed Mujtaba Abbas expressed gratitude to the locals of Chattergam, Chadoora for making all arrangements including Langars and Volunteers of Abna Anjuman for serving devotees effectively.

Will Address Poverty If Elected To Power: Azad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister and DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad reiterated that he will address the soaring unemployment problem of Jammu and Kashmir if elected to power since the UT is figuring among the top five states in terms of no employment opportunities to the youth.

Azad said that it is not only the educated youth who is facing unemployment crisis, the non-skilled and illiterate class equally faces problems to search their manual job. "If I am back to power, I will start again triple shift of developmental works that will ensure all the local skilled as well as non-skilled labours are accommodated to earn their livelihood. Similarly, we need to create massive and diverse job opportunities for our educated youth who face tremendous crisis," said he while addressing a massive gathering of workers in

Dooru, South Kashmir.

Azad said that he has no interest in amassing wealth since he had all the opportunities in life to do so. "I believe in serving people and that is why I returned to the politics of Jammu and Kashmir. I will ensure it that my people in the UT are empowered politically as well as economically," he said, adding that he during his tenure as Chief Minister completed massive projects like Hajj House, Yatri Bhawan and many others in record time due to triple work shift.

"There is a need for same force and energy to bring developmental revolution back in Jammu and Kashmir. I can only do it and I have proven it in the past," Azad said. He said some people do politics to achieve fame, wealth and some other means but Allah has already bestowed me with fame and respect so I owe this land where I have been born. "Poverty and unemployment is growing so I have come here to address it".

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amjad Ali want to change my son's name for re-issue of passport with old passport bearing No:V5220144 from Mohammed Uzair Ali S/O Amjad Ali to Mohammad Arsh Ali S/O Amjad Ali as per records of Aadhar card and Pan card. If anyone has objection may contact regional passport office within the period of one week from publishing of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Amjad Ali
R/o:-Hassanabad, rainawari - 190003
Phone number:- 7006602977

shry

CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

FREE FOR EVERY ONE

Call, Any Time 24x7



9484100200
01942310018



CONTROL ROOM:
27 Gogji Bagh, Near
Oasis School, Srinagar



KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP

Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam

Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K

Editor: Sajjad Haider | RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705

Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email: editor@kashmirobsv.net

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Cabinet and Bureaucrats

The Finance Minister Muzaffar Hussain Beig has taken a strong exception to a senior bureaucrat having taken suo motto a policy decision regarding Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation without taking cabinet into confidence. Whether action will be taken against the erring bureaucrat or not is not of much concern to us but it speaks volumes about the credibility of the government in office in its own bureaucracy. Secretary Tourism is not the first officer who has shown disrespect to the cabinet there are many others who have been ignoring cabinet.

Even officers appointed on contractual basis in the Industries Department have been taking decisions which fall under the purview of cabinet. He has appointed people on top positions without following laid down norms and procedures. So is the case with other departments.

Arrogance in the state bureaucracy is not a new phenomenon. The role of bureaucracy was also expected to undergo a sea change with the change in government. Instead of watching the interests of few at the top it was believed to serve the people of the state. True during six years rule of the National Conference the office of chief secretary in the state had become more powerful than the cabinet. The office of the Chief Secretary was misused. When Mufti government took over it was believed that it would institute a commission to inquire into the misuse of office by the previous bureaucracy.

The public bureaucracy over past few decades has undergone a metamorphosis. New concepts have been introduced to modernize government. A lot of emphasis is being laid on ensuring a genuine partnership between those providing services and those utilizing them. There is need to deliver services and programmes that are not only efficient and effective but also joined-up and responsive. The bureaucrats shall have to shun their hackneyed ideas about governance and start learning from listening and understanding people. The divisional and district administration should set up public panels to assess performance of the government.

The state cabinet is meeting today after about four months to effect what it calls major administrative reshuffle. The past experience with the Mufti Government has been that it has been carrying administrative reshuffles only to provide coveted positions to kith and kin of ministers. No doubt Mufti Government was successful to sell some clichés to the public for some time but it is now fully exposed before the public. Cosmetic administrative changes and selected PR exercises cannot repair the damage suffered by the government unless it takes steps to bring in a responsive administration in real sense.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on April 21, 2005

Any random Friday sermon and for that matter any religious sermon is considered incomplete if it doesn't incorporate the elements of women bashing and imposing such laws and restrictions on women which find no mention in Quran or the Sunnah

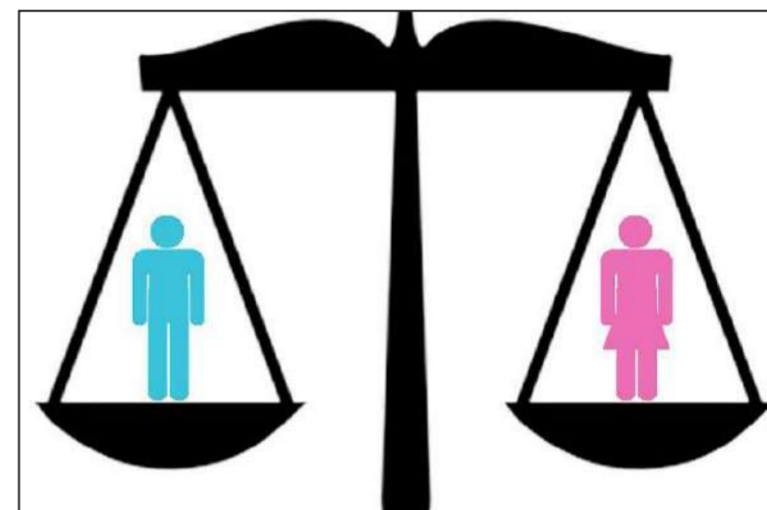
Amir Suhail Wani

Blaming Eve

Women in our society or elsewhere are usually caught in the double whammy of abuse and policing. When a girl goes out at night there are fears and apprehensions surrounding her family that something untoward may happen to her – this represents one aspect of our collective social behaviour. At the same time, if somebody spots the girl out at night, they go on to pass all sorts of judgements and pre-emptive conclusions about her conduct and character – another dismaying social outlook. There is no dearth of incidents nearer home or elsewhere to demonstrate the challenges women have to face while they live in a society. These things do not apply to boys or men – they are somehow deemed as “more moral, more ethical, less erroneous” and even if they commit an error or two, they do not invite criticism or social backlash. As a typical example, an example oft-quoted, imagine a boy and a girl smoking under the same conditions of space and time. While most people will take it for granted to see a boy/man smoking, but in case of girl/women, all sorts of extrapolations will be made and judgements of moral order will be passed in her regard. Same holds for jogging, sports, driving and other activities of life, where these are deemed normal or obligatory for men, they come to be seen as taboo when women participate therein. From what they wear to where they go and from what profession they chose to what hobbies they want to pursue, women/girls are almost invariably subjected to criticism, moral derision and religious backlash. This last denomination of religious backlash deserves particular attention and we shall engage with it in the following.

To invoke religion and to use it as a whip to lash out at women under one pretext or the other has been the misfortune of religion itself. This trend has been on prowl endlessly across the divides of space and time and has brought such a bad name to Islam that it is now by default seen as misogynist and patriarchal religion by its critics and the common masses.

In our own land, women bashing behind the veneer of religion (Islam) has now become a standard paradigm and is almost seen as normal. Any random Friday sermon and for that matter any religious sermon is considered in-



complete if it doesn't incorporate the elements of women bashing and imposing such laws and restrictions on women which find no mention in Quran or the Sunnah.

The mediation of religion, as it has undergone here has assumed particular antagonism and crusading spirit of criticism against women. The roots of this prejudice are to be seen in two centres of origin – one that our religion and its interpretation and explication has been male dominated across centuries and secondly, that some apocryphal and detrimental biblical stories have entered our religious corpus which see women as agents of evil and corruption. It were men who explicated religion for women historically and this led to the subtle seeping in of male chauvinism in the interpretation of the religion. The inability of women to interpret and actively participate in the historical construction of religion construed them as marginal elements and at times deprived them of their divinely gifted liberties and dues, not to speak of the excesses committed against women under the false pretext of violating the norms of Shariah. Kecia Ali, in her article, has vividly demonstrated the malice and marginalisation that women suffer due to their ignorance of Shariah and Islamic laws pertaining to women and various domains of their lives. As they say in a different context that “knowledge is power”, but here in case of women and their representation in religious affairs by men, knowledge is indispensable, for only then will women know their legitimate rights and voice for the same. This enlightenment can't undo the errors of history

and the blaze of marginalization which women have been subjected to, but it will play a seminal role in disarming man's monopoly of religion and the misappropriation of religion by women to subvert, subdue and subjugate the women.

Islam restored to women the glory they had lost in the myrrh of history and carried out its legislation in a way that secured marital, social educational and other rights for women – rights which were hitherto unknown. Karen Armstrong, a reputed scholar in comparative religions notes, “Muhammad was a great advocate of the emancipation of the women and women liberation was an ideal close to his heart”. This is amply testified by the legal and practical precedents set by prophets and his companions in a regressive and degenerative society like Arabia for the betterment of women – and some of these legislations shocked the Prophet's contemporaries. We often speak of the rights and liberties that the Quran and Sunnah advocate for women. But how many of our women folk know these details and how many of our pulpits speak of these themes in liberating and emancipating spirit? What an irony that the religion of liberation be deployed as the religion of subversion and those bestowed with a manifesto of change and enlightenment shall foster and perpetuate the darkness of misogyny and misosophy.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

Can AI Trump Human Brain?

Barhdadi Hassan

Digitisation, automation, high-performance robots ... everyday, advertisements in media anticipate the great disruption and replacement of humans by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In the 19th century, Andrew Ure (Scottish economist, doctor and founder of the Andersonian Institution) asserted that perfect factories would be without workers. More recently, Jeremy Rifkin (American essayist, specialist in economic and scientific forecasting) prophesied “The end of work”.

First, what exactly is AI and what's the process based on?

Conceptualised in 1955 in the US under the leadership of young researchers, wishing to have computers perform what the human brain does, especially tasks deemed to require intelligence.

These researchers had backgrounds in psychology, mathematics, logic and electronics.

The idea was to create a form of intelligence that comes from machines. It is therefore a process of imitation of human intelligence, which is based on the creation and application of algorithms executed in a dynamic computing environment, and whose purpose is to allow computers to think and act like human beings.

Currently in accordance with ISO 2382-98, Artificial Intelligence is the “ability of a functional unit to perform functions usually associated with human intelligence, such as reasoning and learning”.

With Artificial Intelligence, we are entering a brave new world. Currently scientists have a phenomenal amount of data and the

computational power required to operate them, without forgetting the recent advances in neuroscience which have perfected the algorithms on which Artificial Intelligence is based.

Work, media, health, finance, economy, weapons systems, computers, transport, communications, human services ... you name it. AI is already disrupting our daily lives. And it won't stop there. Artificial neural networks are making significant progress in image recognition, text analysis. It can identify skin cancers, prostate or respiratory diseases with a high hit rate.

AI detects legal anomalies in contracts of several dozen pages faster than a seasoned lawyer. It drives autonomous cars in the dense traffic of big cities with an extremely low probability of accident. Coupled with other learning systems, these neural networks are also beating our best champions in chess and video games.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Van Beethoven, for instance, an AI set out to finish the 10th Symphony of this German prodigy, who wrote only the first notes before his death.

The multiplication of AI will mainly increase the domination of GAFA (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple) and serve as a springboard for the Chinese web giants Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent. It is no coincidence that Google and Facebook employ the majority of data scientists in the world. It's the battle for Artificial Intelligence, and for technology in general.

The French government is expected to invest more than 2 billion over five years as part of a “ChooseFrench” strategy. This programme also aims to attract

foreign talent and high-level international scientists in AI, in order to ensure the teaching of the subject matter.

Today we are also witnessing an academic and media bubble around AI. Global research in this field is exploding, as currently demonstrated by the number of scientific articles, advancing promising success.

AI has critics also, who highlight the pitfalls of technology, all of which brings us to the question: Are we really in danger? Will machines win? Responding to these fears leads us to ask where does the human brain get its intelligence?

The brain is a network of nearly a hundred kilometers of blood vessels. It is also two hundred billion cells, the whole weighing about a kilo and a half.

In the brain, everything always starts with two cells communicating with each other at a given point and which then diffuse in a circuit.

A single cell can make five thousand contacts.

Multiply this number by the two hundred billion cells and you will have what generates brain intelligence. Or about a million billion interactions, in three words: very nice machine.

But the brain is also, feelings, emotions, and the memorisation of the complex interactions of social, family, spatial and cultural life. A mind that is not only mathematical, but also polymath and critical.

On the other hand, the brain spends its time anticipating possible situations from the information it perceives from our senses. It puts them intoperspectively with what it already has in memory.

Thanks to this, brain constantly tries to predict and anti-

pate what is going to happen. The brain is also busy 24 hours a day as it analyses sugar levels, need to sleep, eat, drink and exchange emotions.

The brain is a consciousness correlated to the choices it must make between the possibilities that may arise.

According to the Salk Institute, our brain could store one petabyte (memory or data storage capacity that is equal to 2 to the 50th power of byte) of data.

The Artificial Intelligence of each GAFA would store a thousand times more data. Certainly, AI systems are capable, in their areas of specialisation, to surpass us. They reason faster, from more information, and more reliably than humans.

But in reality, algorithms are content to respond to extremely precise tasks and are unable to have reasoning outside their domain, encouraging researchers to work actively for the development and improvement of intelligent machines.

AI has a much wider spectrum of interests and the reason is simple: the human brain has multiple capacities, which range from reflex activities to “reflective” activities.

It is difficult to imagine the coding and algorithms reproducing an Artificial Intelligence equipped with analytical and critical consciousness that can substitute human brain. A robot reasons, but it has no soul. A neurone is alive, a silicon component is not.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer.

The article was originally published in Gulf News

A TERRIFYING TUMOUR TALE: A Woeful Woman's Jaded Journey

Sheikh Arsh

She aimlessly roamed the bustling Iqbal Park Road in Srinagar in one summer day and caught everyone's attention. There was something about that woman with sunken eyes, skinny body and parched face that turned heads around.

But despite her blatant distressed state, she conveniently concealed the signs of the dreadful disease she was carrying inside her head.

The woman's street slog ended when she boarded a bus. Her ensuing phone call literally dropped a bombshell inside.

"Tell mother that I'm diagnosed with tumour," she informs someone with an unshakable voice cascading from her parched lips. "I'm travelling to SKIMS and they might admit me for some days. Tell her not to worry."

The inflection in her voice did not complement the seriousness of her situation. It felt like she was someone left with no hope to live and her disease was yet another tragedy she had to experience.

Her indifference narrated an unsaid story that made the people around her perplexed and intrigued to know the reason behind the numbness she poured.

An air of sympathy surrounded the vehicle and passengers started whispering among themselves to get certain answers that they did not expect to ask the stranger or receive answers for.

Upon disconnecting the phone call, she swiftly stretched her near crippled body on the ragged bus seat to find some comfort. She was unexpectedly intervened by a stranger who complained about her uprightness in putting forth her medical condition to the family.

An eerie silence grabbed the surroundings that broke only when she tried to put her emotions into words.

She introduced herself as Zoon—the moon—who wasn't even a pale shadow of her name. She was just a slogger in the swarm that routinely floods the streets of Srinagar.

A native of Budgam, she had left home early morning with her medical reports to meet a doctor in the city. But the results put her into a jaded journey.

She was diagnosed with cancer and was advised to get admitted in the hospital, as soon as possible.

Zoon voiced the tale of her tragedies as if trying to be heard once, even if by strangers. Every word that poured out her mouth detailed her dreadful life.

She adjusted her gown that seemed to slip off her shoulders depicting her sunkenness. The woman impassively talked about her life that changed 10 years back when her husband divorced her and "kicked her" out of his house for not bearing a child.

Lost in the turmoil of thoughts, she walked on streets—aimlessly—thinking where to take shelter and how to meet the ends in life. It was in this moment a new tragic chapter



“Oblivious of the long-term repercussions of the injury, Zoon said, “I never thought the injury was dormant and would appear years later challenging my endurance yet again.”

huddled her life. She met with an accident and suffered a head injury.

Oblivious of the long-term repercussions of the injury, Zoon said, “I never thought the injury was dormant and

would appear years later challenging my endurance yet again.”

Caught in the ordeals of life, Zoon feared her existence, as she had no shoulder to cry on, and no helping help to support her. Her circumstances forced her to take a refuge at her parent's home, now dominated by her sister and brother-in-law.

Her only support was her mother who's helpless to a point where she thinks of death as the only solution to her daughter's miseries.

“Che gasikh mei bronth marin (You should die before me),” prays her mother in the hope that her daughter would not be left alone in the cruel world after her death.

The woman's woe had rendered her unrecognizable. She had lost weight, leaving her with bones and a layer of skin.

The final nail in the coffin was a kick in the head by her brother-in-law during a recent family fight.

She found herself hurting at the spot of injury for days to finally consult a doctor.

After a medical examination, she came to know about the life-changing disease she

had been battling with.

Zoon felt lost in the moment but upon looking around in the surrounding with people encircling, she thwarted her lost state of mind and continued her journey all by herself.

“I don't know if the disease is my mother's prayers or curse,” Zoon wondered.

“My mother has seen me struggling for everything in life. And the fact that I will be lonely after her death and might be left on the streets to survive, makes her worried.”

She stopped for a while to regain her draining energy, stared at the ceiling of the bus where she tried to settle her paroxysm of emotions and recollected smilingly how she never failed to shower her nephews with love who have completely abandoned her in the fight for life.

Zoon would celebrate their academic success as a festivity and perform traditional rituals by garlanding them and showering them with sweets.

Traveling alone, walking on streets alone, switching from one vehicle to another to reach the hospital alone, she doesn't hope

“Che gasikh mei bronth marin (You should die before me),” prays her mother in the hope that her daughter would not be left alone in the cruel world after her death

anyone will help her through the pursuit and starts her new battle of life alone and unshakably.

As she found herself tired and exhausted with everything around her and inside her, she abruptly stopped talking. She leaned her head backwards, heaved her leg onto the seat and closed her eyes as if she disconnected herself from the surroundings and escaped the cruel world, leaving the bus in absolute silence.

The author is a multimedia journalist at Kashmir Observer

PENMAN'S NICHE

HEETHERRIAY

Namman Laejji Maenz Gopaeli!

(Tribute to the Kashmiri poetess, Naseem Shafiai-recipient of the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award for her collection 'Na Ts-ai Na Aks'.)

S Sarwar

The Baul* in me wants the whole valley to sing
Seated in front of you amid the big floral ring
Each one of us, merrily, in his or her individual way
To greet you, wish you, hug you, and kiss you today
Would it be so, that your kohli-lined eyes look where I stand
And see what the glinting Iris of my eyes hold in hand
Chosen like Shabri**, yet it is, the only one my heart picked

Many they could be, like Henna dots, bedecking my fingers pricked
Varying in size, in shape, in the degree of scent and in arty hues too
But none I found- Gift, Book, or a Card, in neon lit shops befitting you
To match the elegance, the graceful feminine sensitivity, embodied here
Recognized by all in your "Reflection and Shadow", ecstatically kissed dear

The single rose that my crazy adoration places, on your feet, in your hand
On your lips, in your hair, my beautiful poetess, O'little Saraswati** of my poetic land

My dyed fingers found it in the recess of my singing heart, subsuming all
Watered by my artless canals, nurtured by my Helios eyes wherewithal
In the dried up Vitasta** land, where few sang by heart for Rahi, says this petty Baul
Rise not to receive it please, I a pigmy and YOU ARE TALL
O' HEETHERRIAY.

(Notes by the writer; meant for general readers.)

[* Baul : A tribe of this name is said to have existed in India. Bauls are known as Scripture-less Mystics of Celebration; drop-outs who believe in spontaneous singing and dance out of sheer all-encompassing love; that seems crazy to inexperienced people.< Not the deity, Baal- mentioned in ancient phoenician literature >.

** Shabri, Sarswati & Vitasta are linked to Sanskrit & Kashmiri Literature]



KODAK MOMENTS



A solitary hut rests amidst vivacious foliage, surrounded by the famous Nigeen Lake.

Picture Credits: Tauseef Khaliq

Want your clicks to get featured? Send them to us at editpage.ko@gmail.com

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Constitution Allows

and more is expected soon," he said when asked if two terrorists were killed in recent encounters, who are believed to be involved in Dhangri killings and attack on army convoy.

About the installation of smart meters and protests by people, the LG said the administration will take no decision against peoples' interests. "But at the same time, it's a fact that in the last few years, Rs 20,000 Cr worth of power was purchased by J&K administration. Those rich should pay the power bills while the government will take decision for the poor at the right time," the LG said.

LG dedicated Awam

economic development. Now we have to move forward with a new resolve and determination for all round development of the UT and the country," he said

The Lt Governor also paid homage to the great personalities of J&K who have contributed significantly for the development of the society.

In every corner of J&K, the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign is recognizing and paying solemn tribute to those unsung heroes whose stories of valour and selflessness continue to rekindle the flame of patriotism, bridging gaps and building bridges, he said.

He said the unprecedented progress registered across the sectors, empowerment of every section of society is a matter of pride for every citizen of J&K.

"This year, on Independence Day, we have resolved to create new opportunities for the youth and to ensure prosperity and empowerment of women. The Government is already preparing an effective, long-term strategy and we must come together to contribute and realize this dream," the Lt Governor said.

Let us together build a glorious future for all, he added.

In this month's episode, the Lt Governor shared the success stories of women entrepreneurs who are inspiring others with their determination and commitment.

Dream, dedication and hard work is the key to success. Extraordinary achievement of Asiya Jan from Pulwama, in Bheeking is motivating others to dream big, he said.

Ramban's Heena Lateef is scripting a shining success story of women entrepreneurship. With her food processing unit, Heena is also empowering other women, the Lt Governor said.

He made a special mention of Tabinda and Nazia Kausar of district Doda who have become entrepreneurs and employers by utilizing the opportunity provided by the Tejaswini scheme of Mission Youth.

Appreciating Mumtaza Begum of Bandipora for making significant mark in the field of Sheep farming, the Lt Governor said the life story of determination and courage of Mumtaza Begum is inspiring others and is now paving the path for new entrepreneurs in this sector.

He shared the achievements of Lalita Devi of Basantgarh and 50 other women from her Self-Help-Group who are marching with confidence towards the goal of economic empowerment.

The Lt Governor also recalled his meeting with Asha Malviya, a female cyclist from Madhya Pradesh who was on her cycle tour of India for the last 10 months.

Progressive farmers like Abdul Ghani Sheikh and Pritam Singh from Jammu & Kashmir also received special mention from the Lt Governor.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji called for promotion of millets as a food that will help take nutrition to the remotest parts of India and the world, farmers are turning to this smart crop, the Lt Governor said.

Baramulla's Abdul Ghani Sheikh is the first farmer who has started Millet cultivation. Pritam Singh of Kishtwar, has seamlessly integrated agriculture, horticulture and dairy, and has become a beacon of hope for those agripreneurs who wish to innovate, experiment and aspire, he added.

Sharing the suggestions received from Nishad Ahmad and Surjeet Singh from Jammu regarding Safai Karamcharis and education and all-round development of Valmiki community, the Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the government to work for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis, Valmiki community and other deprived sections who were excluded from the development process for decades.

He also voiced the inputs received from Roshan Lal of Block Marheer, Kathua; Sunita Devi of Block Dhangri, Rajouri; Beli Ram of Block Pancheri, Udhampur; Srinagar's Tawheeda Akhter; Rajat Sambhal from Samba and Sheetal Lalotra, a PhD student of Jammu University regarding smooth implementation of PMAY-G, women entrepreneurship in J&K, opportunities to engineering graduates and promotion of cultural activities and new facilities for performing arts in the UT.

The Lt Governor issued directions to the concerned departments and officials for taking appropriate action on the valuable suggestions received from the citizens.

Black Bear Mauls

for further treatment.

The previous day saw another instance of a black bear attack in Drangsoo Mawer, leaving a 39-year-old woman critically wounded. These recurring incidents of wild animal attacks have sparked apprehension within the local community, leading them to urge the Wildlife Department to swiftly capture these animals.

An official from the wildlife department confirmed the injuries sustained by the 59-year-old man and disclosed that efforts are underway to capture the responsible animal promptly.

Furthermore, over the weekend, tragedy struck in the Nichamama village of Rajwar when a 6-year-old girl fell victim to a fatal wild animal attack. Another woman also suffered injuries in a separate incident involving a wild animal. (KNS).

Fewer Yatris, Amarnath

Border Roads Organization (BRO), movement of pilgrims on both the tracks leading to the Holy Cave is not advisable.

Hence, the Yatra shall remain temporarily suspended from both routes with effect from 23rd August, 2023. Chadi Mubarak shall proceed via the traditional Pahalgam route marking the culmination of Yatra 2023 on 31st August.

J&K Bank Sacks

12.29 of the Organizational Service Manual (OSM).

"It was determined that, given the State's security interests, conducting an inquiry in the case of Sajad Ahmad Bazaz, Chief Manager, would not be deemed appropriate or advantageous. In view of this, Mr. Bazaz's services as Chief Manager are hereby terminated with immediate effect," a bank communication, quoting the Managing Director, said.

The authorities in the region have sacked over 50 government employees in the last two years under Section 311 of the Constitution. The employees include doctors, engineers, teachers, policemen, and an administrative official. In July, the UT admin sacked the PRO of the University of Kashmir, Faheem Aslam, who also wrote for Greater Kashmir, along with a revenue official and a policeman.

Sources privy to investigations say a 13 page chargesheet has been prepared against Bazaz. Here are the excerpts:

Bazaz was at the pinnacle of his career. A skilled writer, he was appointed as Cashier-cum-Clerk in 1990 and later promoted in 2004 as a head, internal communication of J&K Bank, a public sector entity owned by the J&K Government.

Investigations have revealed Bazaz's links to Pakistani secret service, ISI. After abrogation of article 370, the top investigators were probing link of deep ISI assets within the terror ecosystem and Bazaz's name popped up. "After month's long painstaking investigation they were in for surprises", the investigators said.

Bazaz, according to these findings was planted in JK Bank as Cashier-cum-Clerk by ISI in 1990 through owner of a local daily.

"In 2004 he was suddenly given a jump to a position that was highly suspicious but it did not raise any eyebrow because of the then larger and deeper subversion in the system," the findings revealed.

"Sajad Bazaz was an embedded asset of the terrorist-separatist networks working on behalf of ISI and has been an intrinsic and inseparable part of Greater Kashmir since its inception in the early 1990s," the Investigators said.

They further revealed that Bazaz while being a full-time employee of J&K Bank was also a full-timer with Greater Kashmir as a correspondent-cum-columnist. "This is open knowledge and known to all", they said.

"Evidence collected by the agencies suggests that Sajad Ahmad Bazaz did not have honest intentions as a parallel employee of Greater Kashmir can be seen in the different names under which he wrote and publish. Initially he used 'Sajjad Ahmad' as his penname. He cleverly added one additional 'j' and also dropped his surname 'Bazaz'. Later with passage of time he got emboldened when neither his employer nor the law of the land could take cognizance of his wrongdoings. Sajad added his surname and wrote under byline 'Sajjad Bazaz'. Additional evidence connecting him with Greater Kashmir is also available wherein Greater Kashmir had allotted an official e-mail address: sajadbazaz@greaterkashmir.com," the investigators said.

"Almost all of his news stories and columns are centered around justifying and glorifying the secessionist-terrorist campaign in J&K. While some are subtle others are thinly veiled. Sajad through his ground reporting and opinion pieces published in his weekly columns titled 'Off The Record' and 'What's Up' in Greater Kashmir, toed the Pakistani line of UN intervention in Kashmir, tripartite talks and human rights violations."

Investigators have copiously quoted Bazaz's write ups in GK in which he is advocating Pakistani line on Kashmir. Without mincing words Bazaz's writings, according to investigators suggest: "no matter how hard the Indian state tries in pacifying, accommodating, cajoling, it will never succeed in its mission in Kashmir."

On the subject of the circumstances in which Bazaz was promoted from a clerk to that of a gazetted equivalent post of Editor, specially created for him, investigators said that on 20th October 2003, a proposal for creating a post of Editor in J&K Bank was placed before the Board of Directors of J&K Bank and was got approved. The following tell-tale aberrations underline that his appointment to the post of Editor was part of a subversion:

Even before the approval of the proposal by the Board, the bank had already four days before, by way of an internal communication on 16th October 2003 invited applications from the cadre of Cashier-cum-Clerks to apply for the newly created post of Editor.

The eligibility norms were tailored to bring in Sajad Ahmad Bazaz. Firstly, the provision of a written test was waived off. Secondly, the catchment was restricted to the category of cashier-cum-clerk cadre to give an undue advantage to Sajad. In itself, this is a matter of criminal investigation wherein an officer grade post was not advertised and opportunity was not provided to members of general public to compete for the post. Thirdly, despite the best efforts to manipulate things in favour of Bazaz, the adversary failed to erase footprints. In the original scheme of things a requirement had been put in: the candidate should have publications pertaining to banking and finance. Bazaz at the time of his selection had none to his credit. (He wrote some article on this much later to cover up). Fourthly, the officer cadre employees having qualification of mass communication and journalism and who were superior candidates were kept out of competition (it is mentionable that qualification of mass communication and journalism was made a criteria for selection to this post of Editor). Fifthly, and importantly a statutory rule (Rule No.323) of the bank pertaining to Officers Recruitment, Discipline, Conduct and Appeal Rules-2000 was completely ignored. The rule stipulates that direct recruitment of officers outside the normal cadre in the junior management grade for possessing any special knowledge or qualification not available in the bank officers service if made by the competent authority directly out of candidates possessing such special knowledge or qualification if are to be absorbed in the normal cadre of officers service shall be mandatorily required to pass CAIB examination. Sajad Ahmad Bazaz in gross violation of this statutory provision is the only officer in the entire history of J&K Bank who was extended a silent concession. He till date has not passed this examination and yet has not only been absorbed in the general officers cadre but given three promotions by diverting posts from the general cadre to a 'one man cadre' only to benefit him.

Despite open knowledge that Sajad Bazaz was a full time employee of Greater Kashmir even when he was on the rolls of J&K Bank, the interview board comprising the then Chairman of the Bank M.Y Khan, Director Haseeb Drabu, Chief General Manager P.Z Lateef and Deputy General Manager M.A Shah selected Sajad from among a very small group of four on the basis of an interview. The Board also ignored that he was rabidly against the Indian state and an open secessionist. In this context, the stranglehold and penetration of the adversary into the J&K Bank is in itself a matter of comprehensive enquiry.

The subsequent conduct of Bazaz after having been placed in the chair of 'Editor' - a position specially created for him in J&K Bank further shows conspiracy and subversion. He empowered with the new authority enriched select local newspapers and news magazines through payment of advertisement money drawn from the coffers of J&K Bank. It is relevant to mention that he owes his selection and placement as Editor in the bank to a clique and coterie, of which he eventually became an important member, who had infiltrated into the governmental system to further the secessionist-terrorist campaign at the behest of Pakistan ISI, they said.

Investigators further said that Bazaz also used the opportunity also to enrich himself. "It is astounding that the management ignored the open clash of interest wherein an employee of Greater Kashmir was also an employee of J&K Bank and in the capacity of the latter he was benefiting Greater Kashmir by sanctioning advertisement money."

"The data pertaining to advertisement money paid from financial year 2015 to 2023 shows that Greater Kashmir has got disproportionately a higher and favourable allotment than all others including newspapers at par with it in terms of reach and circulation. It is very relevant to bring on record that in and around 2010-12 there was a sudden spurt of rabidly pro-Pakistan news magazines and newspapers other than Greater Kashmir. Discreet investigation has revealed that this is in a major way attributable to Sajad Ahmad Bazaz. What really happened is Sajad who actually had been planted by the adversary in the current position in J&K Bank through Fayaz Kaloo was instructed from across the border to help in setting up additional media platforms that would amplify and echo the jihadi and Pak narrative already being propagated by Greater Kashmir in a far more vicious and vitriolic manner," investigations have found.

Investigators have also found links between Bazaz and establishment of pro-Pakistan newspapers and magazines like Kashmir Reader, 'Kashmir Conveyor' Kashmir Narrator and 'Honour' "There are two most striking common features of these news magazines / newspapers: firstly, any casual or cursory reading any of the pages of any of the issues would instantly reveal that the content is all about propaganda and secondly, all were supported by Sajad Bazaz through channeling J&K Bank's money by placing advertisements.

"Actually each of these projects received seed money to start the venture from Pakistan," they said.

Rs.2 crores were provided by ISI station head located in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi for Kashmir Reader. Sajad Bazaz helped in whitewashing this money through the channels of the J&K Bank where newspapers owner had accounts pertaining to his cover business of an advertising agency.

"It is relevant to bring on record that in brazen violation of rules and norms typically seen in scores of cases where the interests of the terrorist-separatist networks were involved, the governmental financial support to media platforms conditional to clearance

of DIPR empanelment, all these news magazines and newspapers mentioned above obtained financial support from J&K Bank without having been empanelled by DIPR. Question is: how did these news magazines and newspapers functioned without DIPR assistance. The answer is: Sajad Ahmad Bazaz who opened up the coffers of J&K Bank", the investigations have found out.

Interestingly, as would happen in real life, jealousy and rivalry broke out between the elements within the terror ecosystem over who is more close to Pakistan and also who would corner the spoils of the proceeds of the businesses that came to be owned during the course of the terrorist-secessionist campaign.

"Fayaz Kaloo ran into Hayat Bhat over advertisement hoarding and billboard business which they had come to own with the support of the adversary and the leverage the adversary had within the local government.

Intelligence inputs show that Abu Qasim a dreaded Pakistani LeT terrorist operating in South Kashmir in 2010-15 was enlisted by Hayat Bhat for supporting his interests against Fayaz Kaloo. This explains as to how and why Fayaz Kaloo despite being a far bigger weight in conventional sense loosing this round to Hayat Bhat. The latter retained his control over the hoarding business. In this episode Sajad Ahmad Bazaz too sided with Hayat Bhat as most hoarding advertisement of J&K Bank went to Hayat Bhat", investigators have revealed.

Investigations also found out that Bazaz worked closely with representatives of several terrorist outfits who were placed in Press Colony Srinagar, designated as 'Publicity Chiefs' camouflaging as journalists in Srinagar's Press Colony during 1990s.

"Bazaz worked shoulder to shoulder with such elements in Greater Kashmir for the common objective of popularizing and amplifying pro-Pakistan narrative and spreading falsehood against the Indian state. Several such people, who later fled India and are now operating from Europe as per available intelligence records were duly supported by Sajad Bazaz.

They further said that Bazaz was in constant touch with various ISI handlers through mobile , through VoIP based end-to-end encrypting messaging service called Telegram. Interestingly investigations have revealed one of these handlers Shabir Bukhari's second most contacted person after his wife was Bazaz.

Muslim Couple

and married Ruby in June," Chakresh Mishra said.

Police say that the three main accused have been arrested and a hunt is on for the remaining two.

Militancy Is Down

economic and social fabric of the region; stress factors thus emerging affect daily lives of the common man.

Degraded quality of education, spiraling unemployment, and increasing health-related concerns are worsening woes in Kashmir.

As of 2020, as per the National Human Rights Commission, suicide has claimed maximum lives in Kashmir after militancy. The rate of suicide is said to have increased by 26 times, from 0.5 per 100,000 before insurgency broke out, to 13 per 100,000.

A study by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, aka Doctors Without Borders) reveals an alarming 400 per cent increase in the suicide rate.

In 2021, 586 people attempted suicide in Kashmir. The figure stood at 20 in Jammu.

Central Kashmir's Budgam district and north Kashmir's Baramulla reported 73 cases of suicide each. This is followed by south Kashmir's Anantnag which reported 67 cases. Srinagar reported 51 cases of attempt of suicide.

In 2021, 41 cases of abetment to suicide were registered in Kashmir against 35 in 2020.

In 2020, the year of the pandemic, over 450 cases of suicide were reported—the highest in a decade.

In 2017, there were 287 suicides in Jammu & Kashmir. The figure increased to 330 in 2018.

2019 saw a marginal drop in numbers with 284 reported cases. The (erstwhile) state reported a suicide rate of 10.3 per 100,000 people that year. The national average is 10.2.

From 2010 to 2020, the valley witnessed 3,024 cases of suicide.

Dr Mudassir Hassan Pandith, a Kashmir-based clinical psychologist, in conversation with IANS, said that "Suicides always happened. But now with easy access to social media, incidents are highlighted way more."

He points out a pertinent aspect that contributes to the escalating numbers of suicide in the valley.

"A youth could die from (drug) overdoses and it may appear as suicide as the addiction might be undiagnosed," he said.

Surface-level reasons such as negative environment at home, or strained interpersonal relationships (and even break-up), financial set-back, failure in examination for youth, etc may be an impetus for committing suicide, but "Suicidal tendency is a personality-based tendency," he explained, adding that "it is impulsive behaviour."

Triple Whammy!

total of 462 incident cases of lung cancer were studied, 324 or 72 percent of the total cases were current smokers at the time of diagnosis, whereas 43 or nine percent had been ex-smokers. Eighty-three (only 17 percent) were non-smokers. Majority of male lung cancer patients (82%) were smokers, says the study in which both male and

female patients were studied.

Among the smokers one-third of the patients smoked cigarettes. 31 percent used only filtered cigarettes whereas the rest smoked Hookah and bidi interchangeably, says the study adding that no specific occupations were found to be associated with the development of lung cancer.

In recent years, surveys by governmental and non-governmental organisations have revealed that tobacco consumption in Jammu and Kashmir is one of the highest in India. A National Family Health Survey released in October last year put the percentage of smoker population in Jammu and Kashmir at 38 percent.

Another survey in 2016-17 Global Tobacco Survey, had found that one in five people of Jammu and Kashmir people smoke, against the national average of one in 11 people."Jammu and Kashmir is fast emerging as the 'smoking capital' of north India," a national daily reported in February 2015, citing sources at the Voluntary Health Association of India, a not for profit organization.

According to the official data (at the Sales Tax Department), Jammu and Kashmir recorded tobacco sales worth Rs 5,530 crore (from 2011-12 to 2017-18).

To understand how widespread the use of tobacco and tobacco products is, Kashmir Observer analysed data of the past decade and found that tobacco and tobacco products fetched the state's sales tax department its highest revenue among more than 70 commodities, including automobiles and electronic gadgets for over seven years.

Smoking is also responsible for reduced lung function among those living in Kashmir, a study published in the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in October 2016, has concluded. The team (of authors) measured the incidence of chronic airflow limitation or CAL, a disorder which reduces pulmonary functioning and is medically known as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

"The single most important cause of air-flow obstruction was smoking, and smoking prevalence was high, particularly of traditional hookahs, among the older population. Whereas the use of hookahs was widespread among both males and females, cigarette smoking was confined to younger males," the study says.

Doctors at Chest Diseases Hospital (CDH), Srinagar, say that most of the patients "we receive in all seasons suffer from COPD and a majority of them have a history of tobacco use."

"Tobacco use, especially cigarette smoking, has remained socially acceptable in Kashmir because of the lack of awareness and inadequate advocacy," said a senior psychiatrist and professor at the Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar.

"What has aided to this huge prevalence of tobacco use enormously, especially smoking, is the fact that Kashmir has been a highly stressful zone for about three decades," he said and added: "When people experience anxiety and stress, they tend to manage the unpleasant feelings by resorting to the use of substances such as tobacco."

While sharing an anecdote, an academic who teaches in a college in Srinagar told Kashmir Observer that she was stunned when a shopkeeper in her locality in uptown Srinagar told her that majority of the customers who buy cigarettes from him are the school and college students and many of them are females. "I was surprised when he told me that some specific brands he sells are in demand from females," the academic said.

Continuing prevalence of smoking, the GMC psychiatrist observed, is not only one of the major causes of respiratory diseases, but is also a matter of serious concern when seen through the lens of growing drug addiction among youth in Kashmir as smoking is the gateway to drug abuse among the youth. A gateway substance is any habit-forming substance that makes it easier to form more extreme and dangerous substance use habits — for example, using hard drugs such as cocaine or heroin.

According to a study Why Nicotine is a Gateway Drug by National Institutes of Health (US Department of Health and Human Services), scientists have long recognized that cigarettes and alcohol raise the risk for later use of illicit drugs like marijuana and cocaine. "In a recent national survey, over 90% of adult cocaine users between the ages of 18 and 34 had smoked cigarettes before they began using cocaine," the study says.

"The pattern emerging from [various] studies suggests that, mostly, adolescents first use more socially and easily acceptable substances (nicotine or alcohol) before they try opioids and/or other illicit drugs. The identification of this sequence has led to the labelling of alcohol and nicotine as "gateway drugs" and the theory that the earlier an adolescent begins to experiment with alcohol and nicotine, the greater is the severity and risk of persistence of his or her subsequent involvement with illicit drugs," says a study The Role of Gateway Drugs and Psychological Factors in Substance Dependence in Eastern India published by International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine.

Drug addiction has continuously seen an increase in Kashmir in the past few years. Responding to a question in the parliament in March this year, the ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment revealed that the number of people who are into substance abuse in Jammu and Kashmir is one million with more than half of them opioid users. According to the ministry a large number of drug users among more than 60 million drug users in the country are in the age group of 10-17 years.

Jackets With Built-In Fans, Neck Coolers

Japanese Turn To Wearable Tech To Beat The Heat



AFP



Just like you feel cool when you are at home with a fan, you feel cool just by wearing (the jacket) because the wind is blowing through your body all the time

Individuals, as well as companies, are putting more and more effort into measures against it every year

TOKYO: Selling jackets with built-in fans, neck coolers and T-shirts that feel cold, Japanese firms are tapping into a growing market for products to help people handle the summer heat.

Japan -- like other countries -- is seeing ever-hotter summers. This July was the warmest in 100 years, with at least 53 people dying of heatstroke and almost 50,000 needing emergency medical attention.

Workman, which makes clothes for construction workers, launched a version of their fan-fitted jackets adapted for the high street in 2020 as demand grew.

The mechanism is simple -- two electric, palm-sized fans powered by a rechargeable battery are fitted into the back of the jacket.

They draw in air to then deliver a breeze -- at variable speeds -- onto the wearer's body.

The jackets retail for 12,000 to 24,000 yen (\$82-164).

"As the weather gets hotter, people who have never worn fan-equipped clothing before want to find ways to cool down... so more people are interested in buying it," Workman spokesman Yuya Suzuki told AFP.

"Just like you feel cool when you are at home with a fan, you feel cool just by wearing (the jacket) because the wind is blowing through your body all the time," he said.

Ageing population at risk

Japanese summers are known to be hot and humid, but this July Tokyo really sweated.

The average temperature was 28.7 Celsius (83.7 Fahrenheit), the highest on record since 1875.

Heatstroke is particularly deadly in Japan, which has the second-oldest population in the world after Monaco.

More than 80 percent of heat-related deaths in the past five years have been among senior citizens.

"Some people die from heatstroke," said Nozomi Takai of MI Creations, a company selling neck-cooling tubes mainly to factory and warehouse workers.

"Individuals, as well as companies, are putting more and more effort into measures against it every year," Takai said.

The gel inside his firm's brightly coloured tubes -- priced at 2,500 yen -- is cool enough to use after 20 minutes in the fridge.

Wearing it on the neck will "considerably cool the whole body" for about an hour, she said.

Takai's company joined an expo this year on "measures against extreme heat" in Tokyo to showcase new products that help users stay cool in the scorching heat.

At another booth, Tokyo-based company Liberta had a series of clothing including T-shirts and arm sleeves using prints that make users feel cool -- especially when they sweat.

The prints use materials such as xylitol that feel cool when reacting with water and sweat, they said.

Chikuma, an Osaka-based company, has even created office jackets and dresses equipped with electric fans.



"We developed them with the idea that it could be proposed in places where casual wear is not allowed," Yosuke Yamanaka of Chikuma said.

Regular fan-fitted clothes can make the wearer look puffy, as they need to be zipped up, and cuffs are tight.

But jackets developed jointly by Chikuma, power tool maker Makita and textile giant Teijin do not need to be buttoned up, thanks to a special structure that sandwiches the

fans in two layers and keeps the cool air in, Yamanaka said.

Men adopting parasols

Parasols, which are commonly associated in Japan with skin-tone-conscious women protecting against a summer tan, are now proving more popular with men too.

Komiyama Shoten, a small, luxury umbrella maker in Tokyo, began making parasols for men around 2019 after the environment ministry encouraged people to use them.

Before, many male customers thought parasols "were for women and they were embarrassed", the owner Hiroyuki Komiyama said.

"Once you use it, you can't let go," he added.

On the busy streets of popular tourist des-

tinuation Asakusa, Kiyoshi Miya, 42, said he decided to "use his umbrella as a parasol".

"It's like I'm always in the shade and the wind feels cool," he said.

Another visitor, Shoma Kawashima, wore a wearable fan around his neck to stay cool under the blazing sun.

"It's so hot I want to be naked," the 21-year-old said.

Gadgets are helpful, but "not a solution" to rising temperatures, he added.

Downtown Heroes Lose 3-1 In Durand Cup

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC's campaign in the 132nd edition of Durand Cup ended on Sunday as the club suffered a 3-1 loss at the hands of Northeast United FC in Guwahati, Assam.

Downtown Heroes had taken an early lead in the 9th minute through Parvaj. The Hilal Rasool Parraj-led side did well to keep the scores 1-0 at half time, but Northeast United came flying in the second half. NEUFC equalised in the 48th minute, before taking the lead in 51st minute and then sealing the match in the 78th minute.

The defeat was the third consecutive loss for the Downtown, Srinagar-based football club, meaning their exit from the competition.

The Heroes released a late night statement, celebrating the team's performance as Asia's oldest football competition.

"Downtown Heroes FC extends heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated fans, supporters, and sponsors who stood by us throughout the tournament. Your unwavering support and enthusiastic cheers propelled us forward, and we are immensely grateful for your presence on this thrilling journey," the statement said.



India Beat Ireland, Take 2-0 Series Lead



Press Trust of India

DUBLIN: Indian batsmen and bowlers were immense in their roles while giving their team a 33-run win in the second T20I and an inviolable 2-0 series lead over Ireland here on Sunday.

Once India erected a strong 185 for 5 after being asked to bat first, Ireland felt the heat while chasing and they were restricted to 152 for 8 despite a 51-ball-72 by Andrew Balbirnie. India had won the rain-marred first T20I by two runs under the DLS method. Fine hands by Gaikwad (58, 43 balls, 6x4, 1x6), Sanju Samson (40, 26 balls, 5x4 1x6) and Rinku Singh (38, 21 balls, 2x4, 3x6) moulded India's charge with the bat.

But on a true pitch, Indian bowlers had to back their batsmen and they produced a superb collective spell under

captain Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna and Ravi Bishnoi, who grabbed six wickets between them.

Prasidh continued his impressive return to top of the shelf cricket as the pacer packed off Irish captain Paul Stirling and Lorcan Tucker in his first over to reduce the hosts to 19 for 2.

Leg-spinner Bishnoi castled Harry Tector with a googly, restricting Ireland to 31 for 3 in the Power Play segment. Ireland's progress was made all the more difficult by the ever-climbing asking rate that often hovered around 12 and above. But true to the Irish legacy, they fought bravely.

Balbirnie was at the front of that mini fightback, making a strident fifty (71, 52 balls, 5x4, 4x6), before perishing to Arshdeep Singh. His dismissal ended Ireland's faint hopes for

a win and Mark Adair's 15-ball 23 providing a mere artificial excitement.

However, before the bowlers took over, India ruled the field through their batsmen. The visitors gained momentum through Samson and Gaikwad for the third wicket. They milked 71 runs between them to carry India past the 100-run mark in the 12th over.

Samson, who has triggered selection discussions ahead of India's squad announcement for Asia Cup 2023 on Monday, played a nice, little innings of 40 off 26 balls that contained five fours and a six.

At 105 for 3 in the 13th over, India had a good launchpad to get to a sizable total. Gaikwad kept his end going steadily. The right-hander reached his fifty, second in T20Is, with a powerful pull off White.

Spain Beat England In Women's World Cup Final

Agencies

SYDNEY: Spain defeated England 1-0 in the Women's World Cup final on Sunday, capping off a tournament that has broken attendance and TV records and raised hopes of a surge in interest for the women's game. Co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, the ninth edition of the global showpiece event was the first to be held in the southern hemisphere.

While local interest ebbed when Australia exited in the semi-finals, just shy of two million fans will have passed through the gates in nine host cities after Sunday's final crowd of 75,784 is added to the tally. An Olga Carmona goal was the difference between the two sides in a pulsating game that saw Spain create the majority of the clear-cut chances.

"We suffered, it was a difficult match (but) we always thought we were going to make it," Carmona, who was also named player of the match, told Spanish state broadcaster TVE.

La Roja were rocked by a locker room dispute between the squad and coach Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, with some of their best players absent from the tournament

as a result.

But despite a shock 4-0 loss to Japan in the group stage, the team has shone throughout the tournament with their brand of attractive, attacking football. "I can't imagine how much excitement there will be in Spain," Vilda told TVE.

"We are going to celebrate here and we don't know when it will end."

FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE

Thousands of fans milled around Stadium Australia in Sydney hours before kick-off on Sunday, with troupes of drummers and stilt walkers creating a festival atmosphere. England and Spain were both making their first appearance at a Women's World Cup final, while England's wait for a first trophy since the men's tournament in 1966 goes on.

Women were banned from official facilities in England, the home of the game, until 1970 and have long lagged the men's team in interest and funding, although that began to change after the Lionesses won the European Championship last year. England captain Millie Bright told reporters after the final whistle she was proud of the progress the women's game had made.

Meals on the Go...

NOW ON BOULEVARD INTRODUCING FISH & CHIPS

Bun Maska

Chai

Who Says Healthy Food Can't Taste Good?

BRING YOUR KIDS ALONG

📍 JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR